

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the subject application be preliminarily amended as provided in the foregoing amendment prior to calculation of the filing fees. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider the foregoing amended claims.

The claims directed to subject matter claimed in the parent application (USSN: 10/036,184) have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 9-17, which correspond to Group II, as that group was defined in the restriction requirement dated March 10, 2003, are currently pending in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: January 5, 2004

John B. Alexander (Reg. No. 48,399)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman
Intellectual Property Practice Group
P. O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
Tel: (617) 439-4444
Fax: (617) 439-4170 / 7748